



Confessional Lutheran Institute

August–October 2023 Report to the WELS One Africa Team

submitted by Dan Witte, October 29, 2023

The Confessional Lutheran Institute (CLI) is OAT's arm which partners in learning for action in Christ throughout Africa. Specifically CLI divides into the two functions below.

1) Formal Continuing Education (led/managed by Dan Witte)

Bachelor of Divinity (BDiv) studies for CELC pastors in Africa

- *Update on past classes:* Seventeen men from 5 African countries are in the 2020–2025 BDiv cohort. They take two courses a year. Sixteen of the seventeen men have completed the research and writing course, “More Like Moses.” (Mukhweya, LCCA-M, is two weeks from finishing.) All have finished “Yesterday, Today, and Forever,” a course on African church history, “Like the Back of My Hand,” a course on Psalms, and an outreach course. Udo and Udo, the Nigerian seminary teachers, still need to finish the marriage-and-family doctrine course; all the rest have finished it. All are working on their final project for the Holy Spirit/Pentecostalism course that finished October 24. The cohort is 6 courses through a 9-course program, which is due to finish in 2025.

Next course:

- Paul Nitz leading a [problem-based learning](#) course: “Solving your Biggest Ministry Problem.” Lusaka, April 23–30, 2024.
- *August–October quarterly BDiv rock:*
 - Take suggested practical improvements from GLP consultant to BDiv/MA handbook and implement. Document improvements noted from the 17–24 Oct Lilongwe course.

Master of Arts in Theology (MA) studies

- David Kamwata, Bright Pembeleka, and Anthony Phiri are nearly done with their MA studies; all now have only have a final project/thesis they could have completed in 2022. (Do they want to complete it? It seems less and less likely. Dan Witte is leaving it to them.) The plan would be for
 - Ken Cherney to advise David Kamwata in a project to use dialogue education in a course he is already teaching. This plan is on hold at Kamwata's request.
 - Brad Wordell to advise Bright Pembeleka in a project about Chewa and biblical proverbs in good preaching. This plan is on hold because Pembeleka is CRM.

- John Schuetze to advise Anthony Phiri in a project about substance abuse counseling. This plan is on hold at Phiri's request.
- Richard Ogosi Amayo, Isaiah Mbeta Mayingo, and Chrispinus Omuse (LCMC pastors) asked in March 2022 to enroll. They attended the Psalms class in Lusaka in March/April 2022. All have completed their entry requirements. This includes Mbeta and Omuse now actively serving LCMC congregations.
Since Dan Witte returned from furlough in mid-August his communication with the three men has greatly improved compared to the previous quarter.
- *One of Dan's August through October quarterly rocks for MA was the same as BDiv:*
 - Take suggested practical improvements from GLP consultant to BDiv/MA handbook and implement. Document improvements noted from the 17–24 Oct Lilongwe course.
 - These are noted in OneNote in the CLI reports archive with in the most recent BDiv trip/class report.

Pastoral Studies Institute of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

- Dan coordinates BDiv and MA with the three PSI brothers: Dave Bivens, Skip Goetzinger, and Al Sorum. Dave Bivens is OAT's busy PSI liaison. Dan and Dave confer often. Dan owes PSI a report on each BDiv and MA student.

2) Seminary Consultation (led/managed by John Roebke for Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda, and Dan Witte for Cameroon, Nigeria, and Zambia)

Cameroon *Dan Kroll and Dan Witte:* Pastors Gervase and Israel are leading pre-seminary courses with 5 men. Reports, funds accounting, and requests are forthcoming and complete. The two Cameroonian men report their weekly progress well, and especially Israel often encourages the Nigerian brothers to do similarly. Kroll and Witte met in Douala with all six West African seminary teachers August 27–September 3. Dowling, Felgenhauer, and Hoff were there part of the time too. Also Kroll, Witte and the 6 teachers try to meet about every other Wednesday afternoon online, in spite of some poor internet connections. Kroll prepares agendas. The teachers take turns giving devotions and leading the meetings. Last WhatsApp meeting was 27 September 2023. Next: 1 November 2023.

Ethiopia *Mark Panning:*

- Rev. Kebede has submitted a Maor curriculum for the upcoming academic cycle. Panning has sent out information to OAT. OAT will supply a maximum of each team member teaching one course per year, either online or in person.
- Maor has 22 students but not all are face-to-face. Those include about 5 pre-ministerial. Not all are LCE. Those 22 include the original guys from the Dukem/Bishoftu area. When the Gambella branch is up-and-running Kebede is expecting another 17 diploma level students, both Nuer (10, the Lam group) and Anuak (7, the Opiew group).

- Kenya** *John Roebke:*
- Three third year students and 16 first year students are learning five nights a week via Google Meet. Three national pastors, 1 national layman and 1 OAT missionary teach.
 - Term began in early September.
- Malawi** *Mark Panning and John Roebke:*
- LBI started year 3 in mid-September. 12 students: 9 Malawi, 3 Zambia.
 - Panning & Roebke met with 9 members of the LCCA-MS committee on 24 Oct 2023 to restart the Sem Consult process in Malawi. The group rejected the idea of a non-residential based worker training program and stated their desire for a unified residential program based at the LBI. A smaller working group of 3 nationals and 2 OAT members will work on a proposal and then present it to the larger group for feedback.
- Nigeria** Dan Kroll and Dan Witte met with seminary teachers in Douala from August 27 to September 3. Year 2 of 2 in pre-seminary level for all our worker training in West Africa began thereafter. CTK started classes 11 September and things seem steady. 10 students. AS has 7 students. AS situation remains complicated. Current plan: Egar and Obi teach until December. Then Johnson and Orem start teaching. All three West African worker training programs have prepared their own budgets and will be accountable for how funds are used. This is a new (big) step in teaching independence and responsibility, so prayers for financial stability are appreciated.
- Wrinkle:* As reported last quarter, All Saints staffing is in flux. President Lifu intends to bring in a former President (Orem) and the new Secretary (Wonah) for teaching starting in January.
- Uganda** Ben and Howie have introduced the Seminary Consultation process. Next workshop is in December. OLS will give more input as to what they want.
- Zambia:**
- Witte has begun his work as ministry training transition counselor.
 - Kamwata, Mutentami, Ndau, Simweeleba, Soko and Witte met 6, 13, and 20 September. Faculty and Witte met 26 September. 3 October meeting canceled due to death of Ndau's mother.
 - Mutentami learned that pastors don't want faculty coming out to teach their elders so faculty-led workshops were canceled. Pastors are jealous of professors.
 - Howie Mohlke and Dan Witte had a helpful meeting with part of the BoC 11 October. Good progress on issues of "who is in charge of whom/ what."
 - Kamwata and Simweeleba are among the pastors who have gone out to visit and mentor vicars.
 - Next curriculum committee meeting was bumped from 26 October to 2 November due to the funeral above, vicar visits, and other scheduling conflicts. Report will be due at Synodical Council meeting 19–20 January 2024.
 - Faculty and BoC looking for more control than in the past. Faculty looking to maintain or increase their status.